



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

December 10, 2001

The Honorable Bob Stump  
Chairman, Committee on  
Armed Services  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As mandated in section 1035 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-398, Oct. 30, 2000) the General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed the strategy, policies, and programs to combat domestic terrorism, particularly domestic terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. GAO reported its findings in its final report, **COMBATING TERRORISM: Selected Challenges and Related Recommendations** (GAO-01-822).

I agree with GAO's findings and look forward to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) playing an increasingly active role in our nation's efforts to combat terrorism. I concur with GAO's recommendation and assure you that VA will continue its current policy of preparing after action reports (AAR) or similar evaluations for all exercises VA has a lead or a contributing role.

Sincerely yours,

  
Anthony J. Principi